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NOTES FOR STUDENTS.

IN THE Gardener's Chronicle for November 10 last, Mr. W. G. Smith figures a curious malformation on the pileus of Agaricus albus, recently collected and now in the British Museum. On the lamellar surface of the obconical pileus there are five smaller pilei, each raised on a short stipe, arising almost in the same plane, midway from stipe to margin.—C. R. B.

CZAPEK's recent paper 6 upon the sensitiveness of the root tip to geotropic influence will be read with exceptional interest by all who have attempted to repeat, for class demonstration or otherwise, his ingenious experiments with bent glass caps. There appeared last year, in Russian, a paper by Wachtel 7 containing a mass of experimental evidence which the writer believed to disprove Czapek's thesis entirely. Wachtel failed to obtain the curvatures described by Czapek for capped roots, and he obtained other curvatures which seemed to prove the absence of any localization of the sensitive region in such organs. Czapek has retraversed the whole disputed ground in his usual careful manner. He was able to reproduce all of Wachtel's results and shows that they were due to imperfect manipulation in the preparation of the glass caps. The walls of Wachtel's capillary tubes were too thin, thus bringing about either a narrowing of the bore at the angle, or the production of an angle too blunt for the desired purpose. Either of these conditions prevents the success of the experiment. The present article contains a translation into German of a good part of Wachtel's paper, with critical remarks, and a discussion of the difficulties of manipulation, including a very detailed account of Czapek's own methods.

There is also added a new experimental proof of the fact that only the formative region of the root tip is sensitive to the earth's gravitation. Briefly, this is as follows: Vertically placed roots are allowed to grow into right-angled caps in the usual way; then the caps are removed, the seedlings placed upon the revolving klinostat, and their behavior is observed. Within a few hours a bending becomes evident, the after effect of the stimulus received by the stationary horizontal tip while still within the cap. Various positions of the roots were tried and all point to the same conclusion. The new method is even more elegant than the older one, and in itself amounts to a proof of Darwin's hypothesis of the localization of the sensitive region.—BURTON EDWARD LIVINGSTON.

⁶СZAPEK, FRIEDRICH: Ueber den Nachweis der geotropischen Sensibilität der Wurzelspitze. Jahrbücher für wiss. Bot. 35: 313. 1900.

⁷WACHTEL, M.: Zur Frage über den Geotropismus der Wurzeln. Berichte der neurussischen Gesellschaft der Naturforscher in Odessa 23: 48. 1899.